

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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42

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 IO-14 ISO-00 EURE-00 SS-20 NSC-07 DODE-00

CIAE-00 PM-07 INR-11 L-03 ACDA-19 NSAE-00 PA-04

RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 USIA-15 TRSE-00 SAJ-01 OMB-01

DRC-01 NIC-01 /135 W

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P R 291651Z JUL 74

FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4069

INFO USMISSION BERLIN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L BONN 11956

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV, PFOR, GW, WB, US

SUBJECT: CONRAD AHLERS STORY ON FEA

1. IN JULY 26 ISSUE OF WIRTSCHAFTSWOCHE CONRAD AHLERS IN HIS COLUMN "REPORT FROM BONN" CHARGES THAT THE FRG HAD ATTEMPTED TO AVOID PROBLEMS WITH USSR AND GDR OVER ESTABLISHMENT IN BERLIN OF FEA BY SIMPLY GETTING WESTERN ALLIES TO FORBID SUCH ESTABLISHMENT. AHLERS SAYS THAT AFTER SCHMIDT BECAME CHANCELLOR, "...SOMEONE GOT THE IDEA THAT THE WESTERN POWERS SHOULD HELP THE FRG OUT OF THE DILEMMA. THEY WERE REQUESTED TO FORBID ESTABLISHMENT OF THE FEA SIMPLY ON THE BASIS OF THEIR SUPERIOR RESPONSIBILITY FOR WEST BERLIN. BUT THE WESTERN POWERS DID NOT PLAY THIS GAME. THEY DID NOT WANT TO BE THE SCAPEGOAT, AND TOOK THE POSITION THAT IT WOULD BE A STILL GREATER MISTAKE TO TAKE BACK A WRONG DECISION ALREADY MADE."

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2. AHLERS' ARTICLE IS RECEIVING STRONG PRESS PLAY, AND

BUNDESTAG OPPOSITION WHIP GERHARD REDDEMAN HAS ANNOUNCED THAT CDU/CSU WILL PUT FORTH A PARLIAMENTARY QUESTION ON THE MATTER. FRG PRESS SPOKESMAN BOELLING SAID OVER WEEKEND THAT IT WAS NOT TRUE THAT SCHMIDT HAD WANTED TO HIDE BEHIND THE ALLIES IN THIS MATTER, AND THAT HE DID NOT BELIEVE THE GOVERNMENT SHOULD TAKE A POSITION ON SUCH "SPECULATION." NATURALLY, HE SAID, AT AN EARLIER TIME VARIOUS FACTORS AND ARGUMENTS WERE DISCUSSED. BUT THEN THE GOVERNMENT TOOK ITS POSITION, AND THIS CLEAR POSITION HAS BEEN CARRIED THROUGH. BOELLING REPEATED THIS LINE UNDER QUESTIONING AT JULY 29 PRESS CONFERENCE.

3. EMBASSY SO FAR HAS RECEIVED ONE PRESS INQUIRY ABOUT THE AHLERS COLUMN, FROM SPRINGER DOMESTIC SERVICE. WE REPLIED WE HAD NO KNOWLEDGE OF SUCH A REQUEST.  
CASH

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** PRESS COMMENTS, JOURNALISTS, ESTABLISHMENT OF OFFICES, GOVERNMENT AGENCIES  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 29 JUL 1974  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** boyleja  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1974BONN11956  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D740205-0706  
**From:** BONN  
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**Office:** ACTION EUR  
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**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
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**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** boyleja  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 26 APR 2002  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <26 APR 2002 by shawdg>; APPROVED <25 FEB 2003 by boyleja>  
**Review Markings:**

Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
30 JUN 2005

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**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** CONRAD AHLERS STORY ON FEA  
**TAGS:** PGOV, PFOR, GE, WB, US, (AHLERS, CONRAD)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005